

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY  
MAYOR



CITY HALL  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302  
TEL:(201) 547-5200  
FAX:(201) 547-4288

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Contact: Jennifer Morrill  
Press Secretary  
**201-547-4836**  
**201-376-0699**

## ***Mayor Healy to Celebrate the Polish Heritage*** ***Polish Festival is Part of city's 'Tapestry of Nations' Ethnic Festival Series***

**JERSEY CITY** – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Division of Cultural Affairs will proudly celebrate the annual **Polish Festival** from **12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, August 30, 2009**, on **Washington Street between Grand and Sussex Streets**, in the heart of the Historic Paulus Hook District.

“The United States of America is a country shaped by immigrants,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The greatness of this country, especially our city, is attributed to the contributions that immigrants have made and continue to make. Jersey City was densely populated by Polish immigrants and their descendents, many of whom worked at the nearby Colgate Palmolive Soap Factory and other shops located in the old First Ward of Jersey City. Polish-Americans have made significant strides and accomplishments in which we can all benefit from.”

Sponsored by the **Polish Committee**, the festival is an annual tribute and joyful reminder of the outstanding contributions the Polish people have given to Jersey City. Current and former residents of the area gather together in observance of their centuries old customs, warm traditions and rich heritage. They celebrate their colorful culture in music, dance and native dress, often with ancestral religious and spiritual overtones. Homemade foods – kielbasa, pierogi, golambki (stuffed cabbage), placki (potato pancakes), Babka, paczki (small cakes with fruit filling) and a variety of beverages will be available for sale. In addition, there will be arts and crafts, children’s apparel, jewelry, objects des arts and religious items.

“Hosting the Polish Festival in the Historic Paulus Hook neighborhood is only fitting,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Before it became a growing area of new developments, chic shops, restaurants and boutiques, it was once home to hundreds of Polish immigrants who left their native land for better opportunities in the United States. Since Jersey City was close to Ellis Island, where many of these newcomers to America were processed, some of them remained in our City and helped in its growth and development.”

For more information about the **Polish Festival**, call the Division of Cultural Affairs at (201) 547-6921.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///**